

# U.S. Census Bureau News

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U.S. Department of Commerce • Washington, D.C. 20230

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**10:00 A.M. EST TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2006**

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**CB-06-44, FT-900A (06-02)**

## **Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products February 2006**

The U.S. Census Bureau, announced today that preliminary February steel imports were **\$2.2 billion (3.2 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary January totals of \$2.0 billion (2.9 million metric tons).

The January to February change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected increases primarily in reinforcing bars and cold rolled sheets. A decrease occurred primarily in wire rods. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected increases primarily with Turkey, Brazil, Germany, and Ukraine. A decrease occurred primarily with Australia.

The year to date final statistics through January 2006 showed steel imports of 3.2 million metric tons, an increase of 0.6 million metric tons from the 2.6 million metric tons through January 2005. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs; and wire rods. The largest country increases were with Russia, Australia, and China. The largest country decrease was with Brazil.

**Notes:**

**The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.**

*Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: [www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/](http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/). On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.*

*The next release is April 25, 2006.*